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Security Council

Fifty-third Year

Provisional

3881st Meeting

Thursday, 14 May 1998, 12.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mahugu	(Kenya)
Members:	Bahrain	Mr. Al-Dosari
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz-Biolley
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Touray
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Sergeev
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	Sweden	Mr. Dahlgren
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Richardson

Agenda

The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security

98-85334 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council strongly deplores the three underground nuclear tests that India conducted on 11 May 1998, and the two further tests conducted on 13 May 1998 despite overwhelming international concern and protests. The Council strongly urges India to refrain from any further tests. It is of the view that such testing is contrary to the de facto moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and to global efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The Council also expresses its concern at the effects of this development on peace and stability in the region.

"The Security Council affirms the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Council appeals to India, and all other States which have not yet done so, to become parties to the NPT, and to the CTBT without delay and without conditions. The Council also encourages India to participate, in a positive spirit, in the proposed negotiations with other States for a fissile material cut-off treaty in Geneva with a view to reaching early agreement.

"With a view to preventing an escalation in the arms race, in particular with regard to nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and to preserving peace in the region, the Security Council urges States to exercise maximum restraint. The Council underlines that the sources of tension in South Asia should only be resolved through dialogue and not by military build-up.

"The Security Council reiterates the statement by its President on 31 January 1992 (S/23500) which stated, *inter alia*, that the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1998/12.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.